

## Historical Note on the Well Adjacent to the Mausoleum of Mira Khan Gakkhar

In March, 2023, while exploring and documenting the remains of the now inundated and abandoned old Mirpur town, I inadvertently discovered a commemorative plaque affixed inside a well adjacent to the mausoleum of Mira Khan Gakkhar. Photographs labeled 1-5 below record the chance finding. The inscription on the plaque dedicates the well and notes that it was constructed by 'Mohammad Asalat Gakkhar' in 1105 AH (1693-94 AD). Sultan Asalat Khan was a descendant of Fateh Khan, brother of Mira Khan, founder of Mirpur. He was a mansabdar during the reign of Mughal emperor Alamgir (1618-1707) and received the parganah of Dangali as fief for service to the emperor [1-3]. He also served under prince Mirza Muhammad Muazzam, son of Alamgir, who would later rule as Mughal emperor Shah Alam I (1643-1712).

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Sultan Asalat Khan was appointed faujdar, first in Pakhli (in the Hazara region) and later in the present-day area of Bannu [4]. At some point during his civil and military career, he administered Muazzam Nagar as well, a Gakkhar stronghold on the river Indus that later became a part of the Mianwali district [1-3, 5]. While serving in the Bannu region, he was replaced by Sultan Mubariz Khan (from Akbarabad-Takhtpari), who had some misgivings about his new appointment and only reluctantly accepted the faujdari of Bannu. Sultan Mubariz Khan was granted the parganah of Dangali as compensation for the appointment [4, 6]. The reason behind his reluctance to accept the appointment may have been the troubled and politically complex state of affairs in his new area of responsibility.

## References

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